

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 5, line 25 as follows:

“Allergen”: An “allergen” is an antigen that (i) elicits an IgE response in an individual; and/or (ii) elicits an asthmatic reaction (e.g., chronic airway inflammation characterized by eosinophilia, airway hyperresponsiveness, and excess mucus production), whether or not such a reaction includes a detectable IgE response). Preferred allergens for the purpose of the present invention are peptide, polypeptide and protein allergens. An exemplary list of protein allergens is presented as an Appendix. This list was adapted from the list of known allergens that is maintained by the IUIS ~~ftp://biobase.dic/pub/who-iuis/allergen-list~~ (updated on March 1, 2000); ~~which provides lists of known allergens.~~ Other preferred allergens are chemical compounds such as small molecules that are produced by proteins.

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 8, line 14 as follows:

“Peptide”: According to the present invention, a “peptide” comprises a string of at least three amino acids linked together by peptide bonds. Inventive peptides preferably contain only natural amino acids, although non-natural amino acids (i.e., compounds that do not occur in nature but that can be incorporated into a polypeptide chain; see, for example, ~~http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~dadgrp/Unnatstruct.gif, which displays structures of non-natural~~ amino acids that have been successfully incorporated into functional ion channels) and/or amino acid analogs as are known in the art may alternatively be employed. Also, one or more of the amino acids in an inventive peptide may be modified, for example, by the addition of a chemical entity such as a carbohydrate group, a phosphate group, a farnesyl group, an isofarnesyl group, a fatty acid group, a linker for conjugation, functionalization, or other modification, etc.